

JAKARTA**Emperor Sukarno**

Recent disclosures by Malaysia's Tunku Abdul Rahman and Singapore's Lee Kuan-yew prove the totality of Sukarno's commitment to "devour Malaysia" (as he expressed it on December 24). Indonesian agents and guerrillas not only are active in Sarawak and Sabah (North Borneo) but have already started operations in Singapore and Malaya. One base has been established in the Rhio Islands, south of Singapore, and guerrilla units are being

Abroad

formed for revolutionary activity on the mainland. At the same time Sukarno has been giving public voice to the most extreme anti-Western views. In the last week of December he welcomed an official delegation of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front (political front of the Vietcong), stated his hope for its early victory ("so that I may pay a visit to a free Saigon"), and denounced the "imperialist-puppet" governments of Taiwan, South Korea, South Vietnam and Malaysia. He condemned the U.S. Seventh Fleet as the major threat to freedom and independence in Southeast Asia. It is probable that some time in 1964 he, along with the Communist nations, will recognize a National Liberation Front regime as the government of South Vietnam.

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR**Prophet's Beard**

More than 100,000 Moslems demonstrated in the wild riots that followed the disappearance of the hair of the prophet's beard. Though religious fanaticism perhaps triggered the explosion, the size and character of the manifestations reflected the political tensions in Kashmir that have been rapidly rising in the past several months. India is attempting to impose new constitutional provisions that bind Kashmir more integrally into the Indian state. Pakistan is stirring up the Moslems, who comprise a majority of Kashmir's population, to resistance. The Indians suspect, rather plausibly, that the hair of the beard was actually stolen (and subsequently returned) by a Pakistani agent provocateur. Kashmir, always the most sensitive barometer of India-Pakistan relations, indicates that these relations have dropped to their lowest point in a long while.

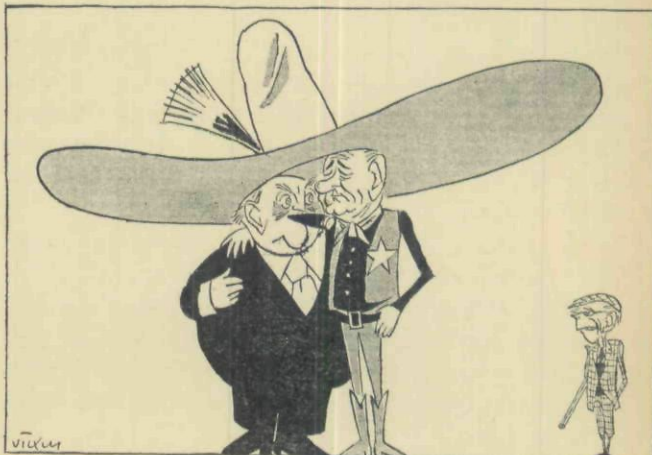
ALGIERS**Still Clever, These Chinese**

Though no immediate political results followed—nor did he expect any—Chou En-lai had no reason to regret his recent visit to Algeria. "He's a man who sparkles with intelligence, very agreeable and charming—in short, a great gentleman," was President Ben Bella's summation after Chou departed. Chou played low key throughout, with many a laugh in the jovial Chinese way. As one reward he was permitted—no other visitor, not even Nasser, has been—to give a talk to a secret meeting of FLN

leaders. He and Ben Bella had a lengthy conversation about de Gaulle, who has been warming toward Peking. ("I myself have never had any trouble with de Gaulle," Ben Bella is reported to have told Chou.) Later this year, it was arranged, Ben Bella will tour China, North Korea and North Vietnam. "China and Algeria are more than friends," remarked Algeria's leading political weekly, *La Révolution Africaine*.

BONN**Bonn-Washington Axis?**

West German analysts attach great importance to the fact that President Johnson's first working conference with a foreign head of state was with Chancellor Erhard. Although the official communiqués were rather empty, the analysts note the agreement on setting up special "consultative" arrangements. They link this to last summer's agreement, following Secretary McNamara's visit to Bonn, for a German-American consultative group dealing with strategy and logistics. They see West Germany entering into a "special relationship" with the United States, bypassing both London and Paris, at the same time that it

**Vicky***New Statesman*

retains a "special relationship" with France, and therefore with continental Europe, through the Common Market. Germany thus stands in the front rank of both the European and the Atlantic "worlds," and functions as the bridge between them. Thus, they reason, de Gaulle's grandiose plan for French hegemony in a Europe liberated from the Anglo-Saxons may ironically bring about the leadership of Germany in a Europe linked integrally to the Atlantic powers.

LONDON**The Affluent-Plus Society**

Under the relaxed gaming act passed three years ago, gambling of all sorts has flourished like the bay tree. Mr. Timothy Holland, chairman of Crockford's, the best known of the gambling clubs (its stock has gone up about a hundredfold since 1961), continues to be bullish: "It is a growth industry," he summarized recently. "Maybe not at the upper-class end, if I may use that vulgar expression. But there's a tremendous future in bringing roulette to the masses."

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